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OFFICIAL INFORMAL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/17/06
TAGS: AMGT, AR, BR, CI, PA, UY
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL ASDAR

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ASDAR FOR JANUARY 16, 2001

(U) CLASSIFIED BY ROBERT M. WITAJEWSKI, ACTING DIRECTOR,
WHA/BSC, REASON 1.5 (D)

1.   (U) ARGENTINA: FORMIN THANKS U.S., IMF BOARD NOTES
CONCERN. REFERRING TO FRIDAY'S EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVAL OF
THE IMF SUPPORT PACKAGE, FOREIGN MINISTER RODRIGUEZ
GIAVARINI WAS QUOTED AS SAYING ARGENTINA WOULD "NEVER
FORGET THE ROLE THE U.S. PLAYED IN FINDING A FINANCIAL
SOLUTION." HE ALSO VOICED SATISFACTION WITH PERSONAL
MESSAGES FROM SECRETARY ALBRIGHT AND SECRETARY-DESIGNATE

POWELL. FOR THE IMF'S PART, STANLEY FISCHER'S CANDID STATEMENT TO THE CHAIRMAN RECOMMENDING BOARD APPROVAL LEAKED TO THE PRESS. DESCRIBING PAST GOA ECONOMIC POLICY AS "MALADROIT," IT SAID THE IMF PROGRAM WOULD REQUIRE "POLICY DISCIPLINE AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL" TO SUCCEED, AND ZEROED IN ON THE FISCAL PACT WITH BA PROVINCE AS A KEY ELEMENT FOR THE PLAN TO WORK. (IRWIN, PRESS)

2. (U) ARGENTINA: DIRTY WAR SUSPECT'S EXTRADITION APPROVED. A MEXICAN COURT HAS RECOMMENDED THAT ARGENTINE MIGUEL RICARDO CAVALLO, HELD IN MEXICO SINCE AUGUST, BE EXTRADITED TO SPAIN TO FACE "DIRTY WAR" CRIMINAL CHARGES. THE GOM WILL DECIDE WITHIN 20 DAYS WHETHER TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION. FAMILY MEMBERS OF ARGENTINES WHO DISAPPEARED UNDER THE MILITARY REGIME SHOUTED THEIR APPROVAL OF THE RULING. AN EX-NAVY LIEUTENANT, CAVALLO IS ACCUSED BY SPANISH JUDGE BALTASAR GARZON OF TAKING PART IN ACTS OF GENOCIDE, TERRORISM AND TORTURE - INCLUDING THROWING DETAINEES OUT OF AIRCRAFT INTO THE RIVER PLATE AND

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ATLANTIC OCEAN TO DROWN-DURING THE PERIOD 1976-83. (IRWIN, PRESS)

3. (C) BRAZIL: "BRAZILIAN TEA," RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES, AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES. WE MET FOR ALMOST 90 MINUTE WITH JUST UNDER TWO DOZEN ATTORNEYS FROM JUSTICE, ONDCP, AND OTHERS TODAY TO CONTINUE FORMULATING A RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFFS' REQUEST TO IMPORT A CATEGORY I PSYCHOTROPIC DRUG FOR RELIGIOUS USE IN THE U.S. UNDER THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT. U.S. TREATY OBLIGATIONS APPEAR TO PRECLUDE PERMITTING THE DRUG'S IMPORTATION BY THE GROUP WHILE THE SMALL SECT ARGUES ITS USE IS INTEGRAL TO ITS RELIGIOUS PRACTICES. A DECISION IS UNLIKELY BEFORE JANUARY 20.

4. (SBU) BRAZIL: CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE SEEKS INFO ON DEATH OF FORMER BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT. WE MET WITH MEMBERS OF A BRAZILIAN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF FORMER PRESIDENT JUSCELINO KUBITSCHEK. THEY REQUESTED ANY IN USG HANDS REGARDING KUBITSCHEK'S POLITICAL ACTIVITIES FROM EARLY 1973 TO HIS UNTIMELY DEATH IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT IN DECEMBER 1976. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PAUL OCTAVIO SAID THE EVIDENCE GATHERED TO DATE INDICATES THAT KUBITSCHK'S DEATH WAS ACCIDENTAL, BUT THE COMMITTEE CONTINUES TO LOOK FOR ANY SIGNS OF BRAZILIAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN HIS DEMISE. WE ENCOURAGED THE GROUP TO FILE A DETAILED FOIA REQUEST ON KUBISCHEK'S DEATH, WHILE AGREEING TO CONDUCT A LIMITED SEARCH OF OUR FILES FOR INFORMATION ON CHILE'S MILITARY

ATTACHE TO BRAZIL DURING THE PERIOD 1976-77. (CREAMER)
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